

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An inorganic layered compound dispersion, wherein A gas barrier coating composition, comprising:~~  
an inorganic layered compound dispersion (c), wherein an inorganic layered compound (b) is dispersed using a peroxide (a) in a dispersion medium, and  
a gas barrier resin (d).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The inorganic layered compound dispersion~~ gas barrier coating composition according to Claim 1,

wherein a mixture containing the peroxide (a) and inorganic layered compound (b) in a mixing ratio by mass of (a)/(b) = 2/1 to 1/1000 is dispersion treated in a high speed stirring apparatus and/or a high pressure dispersing apparatus.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The inorganic layered compound dispersion~~ gas barrier coating composition according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein hydrogen peroxide is used as the peroxide (a).

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The gas barrier coating composition according to ~~Claim 5~~ Claim 1 or 2, wherein the total content of the inorganic layered ~~compound~~ dispersion (c) and gas barrier resin (d) in the gas barrier coating composition is 1 to 30% by mass and the mass ratio (c)/(d) is 30/70 to 70/30.

7. (Original) The gas barrier coating composition according to ~~Claim 5 or 6~~ Claim 1 or 2, which contains, as the gas barrier resin (d), at least one resin selected from ~~among the group consisting of~~ polyvinyl alcohol-based resins and ethylene-vinyl alcohol-based resins.

8. (Currently amended) A gas barrier composite plastic film or sheet,  
which is obtainable by applying the gas barrier coating composition according to ~~claim 5 or 6~~ at least Claim 1 or 2 to at least one of the surfaces of a film or sheet of a plastic selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters, polyamides and polystyrene in a coating weight to give a dry film thickness of 0.1 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

9. (Original) A gas barrier packaging container, which is obtainable by molding the gas barrier composite plastic film according to Claim 8.

10. (Original) A gas barrier packaging container, which is obtainable by molding the gas barrier composite plastic sheet according to Claim 8.

11. (Currently Amended) A gas barrier packaging container, which is obtainable by applying the gas barrier coating composition according to ~~claim 5 or 6~~ claim 1 or 2 to a plastic container molded in the form of a tube, tray, cup, box or bottle in a coating weight to give a dry film thickness of 0.1 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

12. (Original) A gas barrier packaging container, which is formed of a composite layer consisting of paper and the gas barrier composite plastic film or sheet according to Claim 8.

13. (New) A process for producing a gas barrier coating composition according to claim 1 or 2,

comprising the step of producing the inorganic layered compound dispersion (c) by admixing a peroxide (a) and an inorganic layered compound (b) in a dispersion medium in a mixing ratio by mass of  $(a)/(b) = 2/1$  to  $1/1000$  and further treating the resulting mixture in a high speed stirring apparatus and/or a high pressure dispersing apparatus to distribute the cleaved inorganic layered compound (b) in the dispersion medium.